

## Historic Commission Minutes

Present: Diane Curran, Chair; Mary Lindstrom, Silas Little, Veda O'Neill, Lisa Phillips, Ann Stewart, Bill McAuley, Selectman; and guest presenter Ben Watson, Chair, Francestown Planning Board.

Absent: Peter Bixby

Ann Stewart agreed to be secretary. The minutes will be sent to all Board members and an article will be written and forwarded to The Francestown News via [pyle@adelphia.net](mailto:pyle@adelphia.net) and the Francestown web page, via Mike Jones, [mkj@francestown.info](mailto:mkj@francestown.info).

Ben Watson, Chair of the Planning Board, spoke on the importance and need for a heritage commission. He would like our input and help with the 1995/96 master plan update, historical reviews and land use analysis. We will also utilize Greg Thulander's 1990 town-wide project, kept at the FIHS historical rooms.

Ben stated the master plan recommends these historical districts which warrant historical protection: Main Street, Mill and Clark Villages, Old County Road South and agricultural districts (i.e. the Todd Place land on Todd Road for which the Boothby's are considering river frontage land in conservation easement.)

Bruce and Danielle Harrington are considering some of the Red House Road property in easement also.

The planning board would like to invite us to go on site walks with them in an advisory capacity. Ben suggested we act as an advisory board to the planning board and to add or correct input on the Master Plan, especially land use analysis affecting historical assets.

We became acquainted with the proposed sub division plan regarding Patrick and David Boothby, who own a 56 acre parcel of land (lot 8-93) that stretches from Pleasant Pond Road along Todd Road and to the transfer station. Concerns in this matter include the important wildlife corridor along the Piscataquog River within the property as well as wet lands, steep slope and the existing 1790 house.

Any of our comments and recommendations will be taken into consideration.

We will ask Peter Bixby to help us verify any historical aspects of the house and if it is significant enough for historical place easement (i.e. a tax break?)

Ben is updating the master plan by adding the current property owners' names. Perhaps through a town wide mailing we may receive an inventory to residents' knowledge of their houses, barns or property. This will also help residents gain a better understanding of who we are – not a historical district commission. Silas mentioned a technique which would incorporate computer ready copy and Lexan for signage regarding the cemetery plot plans.

Ben suggested we look at the town building stock and the usage of these buildings. We could mandate input on some of the usage (i.e. library asking the town for money for their new building). We could also provide input to the Town Hall Study

Committee regarding the upcoming renovations. Silas mentioned that Deering recently renovated their town hall, which incorporated the police, selectmen, town clerk's offices, meetings etc.

Ben mentioned the Francestown Village Store's interest in building a pub in the south end of the building. (Would this work alongside the proposed library expansion?)

We want to invite Betsy Hardwick, chair of the conservation commission and Greg Neilley, president of the Francestown Land Trust, to speak to us,

Our next meeting is December 10 at 9:00 am at the Town Hall Annex.

---Veda O'Neill, member